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## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The Restriction Requirement dated September 16, 2004, is withdrawn, therefore, claims **1-25** are pending in the application.

## Information Disclosure Statement

This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on July 7, 2003.
 Information disclosed and listed on PTO 1449 was considered.

## Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims **1-25** are allowed.

Sharma et al. (US 6,754,097), Baker (US 6,741,490), Lu et al. (US 6,522,576), Thewes et al. (US 6,487,109) and Hoffmann et al. (US 6,388,917) disclose a MRAM device having a read-out circuit similar to that of the present application, but fail to teach:

"a first memory cell string that includes at least a first memory cell coupled to a second memory cell; and a circuit coupled to a node between the first memory cell and a second memory cell, the circuit configured to detect a voltage change at the node in response to a voltage being provided to the memory cell string and the first memory cell being written to a first state" as claimed in the independent claim 1; or

"providing a voltage to the memory cell string; measuring a first voltage at a node between the first and second memory cells; writing the first memory cell to a first state; measuring a second voltage at the node; and determining whether the first voltage differs from the second voltage" as claimed in the independent claim 12; or

"a first memory cell; a second memory cell coupled to the first memory cell; a transistor coupled to a node between the first and second memory cells and coupled to a bit line associated with the first memory cell; a means coupled to the bit line for detecting a voltage change at the node in response to a first voltage being provided to the first and second memory cells; the first memory cell being written to a first state; and a second voltage being provided to the transistor" as claimed in the independent claim 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

## Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **ANH PHUNG** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1883**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHARD ELMS, can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Application/Control Number: 10/614,581

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Art Unit: 2824** 

**AKP** 

Club Phung